



Schultz-Hanford Area

500-kV Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration is committed to providing reliable power to the Northwest region and is proposing to build new infrastructure projects to improve the reliability of the transmission system and meet future power needs.

Project Description

The Schultz-Hanford project proposes to build a 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would be about 63 miles long and would add additional capacity to the heart of BPA's electric grid in central Washington. The proposed line would connect BPA's Schultz substation near Ellensburg, Wash., to a new substation at Wautoma.

The proposed line would:

- Run up the middle of the Columbia River Basin.
- Cross the very western end of the Hanford Reach National Monument and the U.S. Army's Yakima Firing Range.
- Increase transmission capacity north of Hanford and allow additional power to move through this area during the spring and summer months.

Working with the Community

This project involves crossing the Columbia River twice, Crab Creek, the Hanford Reach National Monument and the U.S. Army's Yakima Training Center. It also involves constructing new towers, conductors and fiber on public and private properties, some of which contain agricultural crops, wetlands and cultural sites. BPA is committed to working with public agencies, interest

groups, Tribes and private property owners to minimize design and construction impacts.

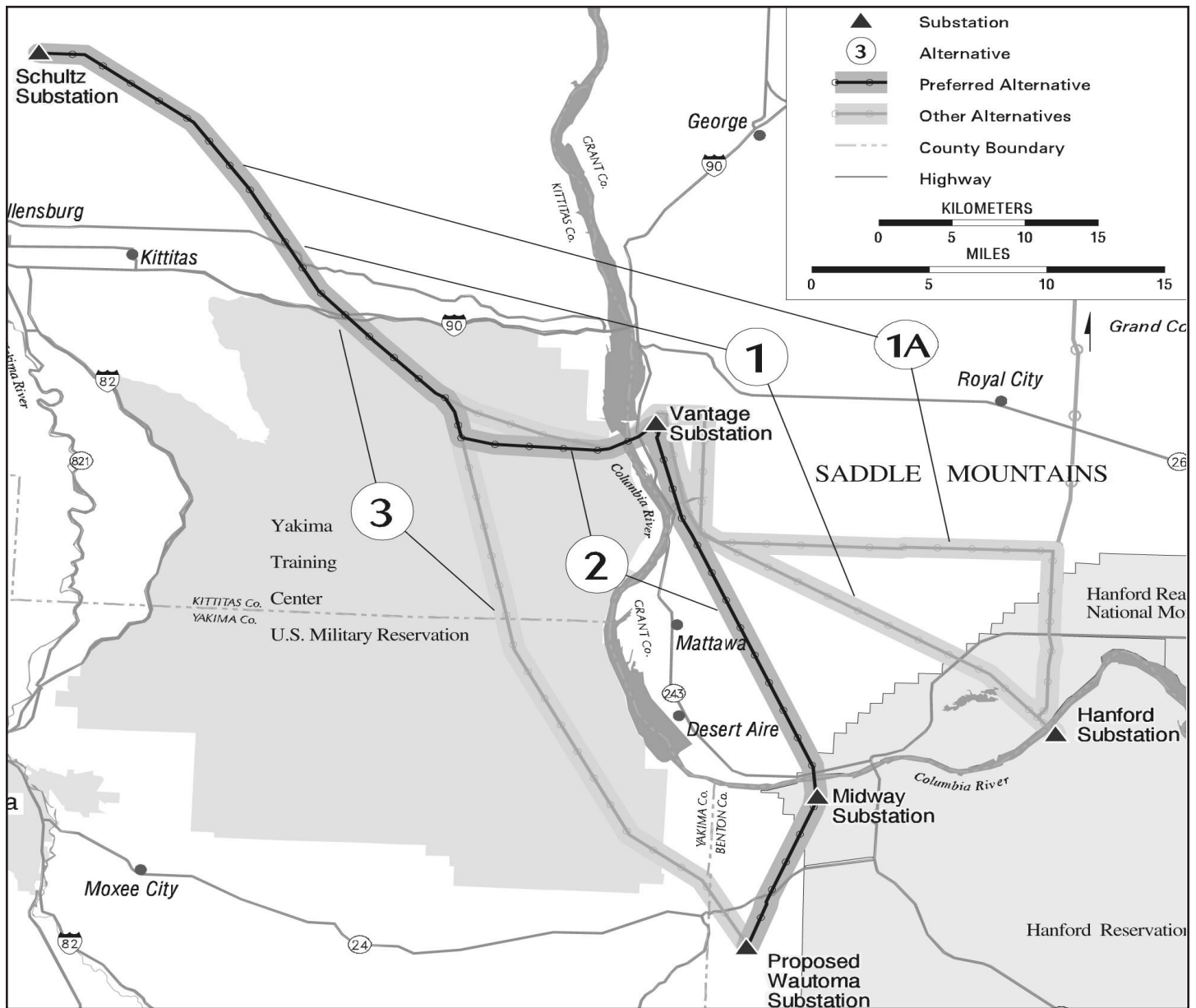
Environmental Planning

As BPA designs this project, special attention will be paid to minimize disruption to people, habitat and farm production. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being developed for this project to look at alignment alternatives and mitigation issues. The EIS focuses on protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment and requesting public input on project alternatives. Some of the key project milestones are listed below:

- **Scoping.** BPA identified possible issues and concerns on the project by conducting public meetings and meeting with state and federal agencies and concerned tribes in January 2001.
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** A draft EIS describes the existing environment and how it may be affected. It analyzes cultural resources, fish and wildlife, land use and visual resources. The draft EIS also recommends ways to reduce any adverse effects from this project. The draft EIS public comment period ended March 25, 2002.
- **Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** The final EIS, scheduled for release in the fall of 2002, will respond to public comments on the draft EIS and will be modified as necessary.
- **Decision.** Based on the environmental studies, additional technical analysis and public feedback, BPA's administrator will decide how to proceed on the project.

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This map shows the proposed route for a new 500-kV transmission line.

Funding and Schedule

BPA is providing the funding for this project. If BPA decides to build the new transmission line, construction would start in fall of 2003 and the line would be energized in fall of 2004.

Questions or Comments

If you have questions or would like more information about the project, please contact BPA Project Manager Lou Driessen toll free at 1-888-276-7790 or visit BPA's Web site at www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects, select Infrastructure and scroll down to the Schultz-Hanford Project. If you have real estate or easement questions or would like BPA to meet with you on site, please call Mari Rosales (509) 321-2226.

